

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. AMAT/5819/DSM/LOW KJW

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated November 9, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on February 9, 2005. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Xu *et al.*, (U.S. Patent 6,777,171) or under 35 U.S.C. § 102(f). Applicants respectfully traverse the respective rejections.

Xu *et al.* discloses etching an organosilicate layer with an appropriate chemical etchant (e.g., trifluoromethane (CF₃H)). Xu *et al.* does not teach, show, or suggest etching an organosilicate layer with a gas mixture comprising a hydrogen-containing fluorocarbon and one or more gases selected from the group consisting of hydrogen (H₂), nitrogen (N₂), oxygen (O₂), argon (Ar), and helium (He), as recited in claims 1 and 21, and claims dependent thereon. Thus, the Xu *et al.* reference does not provide a basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) or under 35 U.S.C. § 102(f). Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Additionally, the Xu *et al.* reference (U.S. Patent 6,777,171) and the pending application 09/912,103 are commonly owned by Applied Materials, Inc. Thus, Cheung *et al.* is not prior art as asserted by the Examiner under U.S.C. §103(c). A statement of common ownership is submitted herewith.

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed.

The secondary references made of record are noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure than the primary references cited in the Final Office Action. Therefore, Applicant believes that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not necessary for a full and complete response to this Final Office Action.

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Having addressed all issues set out in the Final Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



Keith M. Tackett
Registration No. 32,008
MOSER, PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicant(s)